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PROBLEMS IN THE FIELD OF ANIMAL NUTRITION¹

PROGRESS in the profession of animal production is obviously determined by our understanding of the facts and principles upon which it is based.

Having proceeded along lines of least resistance, for a certain time, limits to advancement are reached such that continued progress depends upon the solution of certain commanding or "key" problems. In the service of the profession, and of the nation, the sub-committee on animal nutrition of the National Research Council wishes to call attention to some of these more important problems, with which we are in immediate contact.

In so doing it is our hope that the problems will appeal to research workers in such ways as to result in extensive informal cooperation in their solution, simply through the choice of specific subjects for research within the general field as outlined.

However desirable is close cooperation in research work there may be great practical difficulties in providing for and in accomplishing such a relation. It seems practicable, however, at least to bring about a useful degree of correlation in research by inviting the choice of subjects for study from large projects having importance sufficient to commend them to experimentors and administrators in this field of endeavor.

We would indicate, therefore, the following problems and fields of research as worthy, in our opinion, of extensive and thoroughgoing study:

I. A general program of research on foods of animal origin in relation to human nutrition and to agriculture.

II. Growth curves of farm animals.

III. The establishment of a scientific basis for judging farm animals.

¹ By the sub-committee on animal nutrition, National Research Council.

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